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HIST RULES FOR LEADS DONE IN RHYME BY A. C. C.

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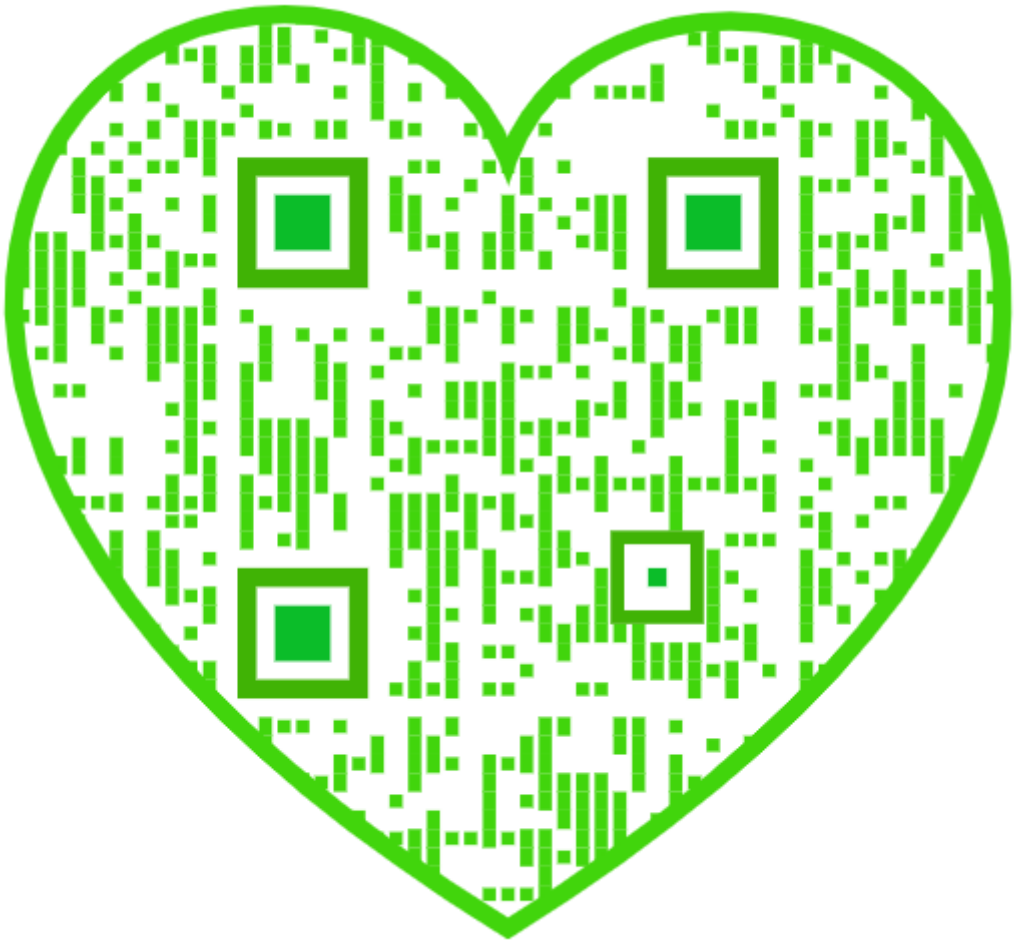


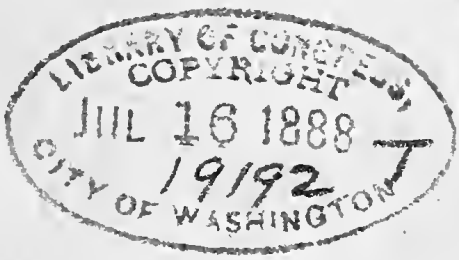
WHIST RULES FOR LEADS

IN RHYME

♦

BY

A. C. C.



NEW-YORK
1888

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WHIST RULES FOR LEADS.

Holding king, with ace *or* queen,
First lead king, as you have seen.

Holding king, with queen *and* ace,
Still lead king, in the first place,

Then with queen pray follow next,
So your partner 's not perplexed,

But rests assured the ace remains
Among the cards your hand retains.

With only king and queen, lead king,
Then fearlessly a low card swing,

Unless the ace should fall on king,
When, naturally, the queen 's the thing.

King, queen, knave and *one* small card,
First lead *king* — now study hard;

King, queen, knave and *two* others,
First lead *knave*, like whist lovers,

To show you have not only strength
In this your suit, but *also length*.

Your *second* lead from these same three
Is governed by your *first*,—for see —

Lead king, then knave in a suit of four,
Or *knave*, then *king*, when it numbers more.

With ace, queen, knave, lead the ace,
Then comes the queen next in place,

Unless it is another time
When both *strength* and *length* combine,

When lead the ace and then *the knave*,
And at the last, command you 'll save.

Holding ace, queen, knave and *ten*,
After ace, lead ten out then,

To force the king where'er he be,
And then make queen and knave, you see.

Now we come to a favorite lead,
Adopting which you must succeed,—

With king, knave, ten, lead ten always,
Since it 's been proved it really pays.

And if ten *wins*, then please play *low*,
For adverse ace will fall, we know.

But should *queen* fall on lead of ten,
And by and by you lead again,

Continue now with *king* or *jack*
Showing number you hold, or lack.

Now with the ten, knave, *queen* and king,
Always play *ten*, important thing

To win at once *entire* command,
Though ace lies in your partner's hand.

And by your *second* lead, we 'll know
All that you hold, for you can show,

By leading knave, *queen* lies with you
As well as king, and *long suit too ;*

Or, leading *queen*, that you 're not *long*,
But that you *are* unusually strong.*

But should ten *win*, then, in this case,
Follow with *king*, to force out ace

* See Cavendish, 16th Edition, page 67.

And show you hold the *queen* as well,
Unless it is you wish to tell

Of *five in suit,* when lead the *queen,*
And all will know just what you mean.

In other words, to be more plain
And to repeat this once again,

Lead king *or* queen should ace *not* fall;
Length deciding *which* — that 's all —

And *queen or knave* when you succeed
In *forcing* ace by your ten lead.

With queen, knave, ten, or knave, ten, nine,
Lead highest card, as sequence-sign,

And if the sequence numbers more,
Follow with lowest of the four.

Or, if your lead was one of *three,*
Take care to let the *next* card be

The one that tells if the suit is *long,*
For that is the burden of this song.*

* "With two high, indifferent cards, lead THE HIGHER if you opened a suit OF FOUR; THE LOWER if you opened a SUIT OF FIVE." (See "American Leads in Whist Developments," by Cavendish.)

Cards are "indifferent" when by the lead of either it will become evident that one holds *both.* (In such a case the lead of the lower card implies length.)

With one honor, and cards all small,
Lead the "fourth best"— make high cards fall!

But with four or more beside the *ace*,
Lead the ace at once, in such a case;

For if you 're long in any suit,
Some one will trump next time, *sans doute*.

With two honors that do not touch,
Lead one of them out? No; not much!

But lead "fourth best" again, my friend,
Or you "to the foot" I 'm forced to send.

Though, *mark me*, this does not refer
To lead of *ace*, let naught deter

You from leading *that*, as you 've been taught,
Unless you are comparatively short.

The nine usually means "fourth best,"
Unless "weak lead"; so you can rest

Assured of *three* very good cards still
In leading hand, to be played at will.

When *forced* to lead from suit of three,
The highest one pray let it be,

Unless, by chance, you have a card
Higher than *knave,* when it 's not hard

To see that, by only leading low,
You can play to win — as you must know !

When forced to lead from suit of two,
Lest you should ask me what to do,

I 'll tell you now, for once and all,
The higher card is forced to fall,

And even when it is a case
Of holding only king and ace.

TRUMP LEADS.

In managing trumps and how to lead,
People all puzzle more than they need,

For it 's as simple as simple can be,
And easily solved as the rule of three,

Merely requiring a little thought
Just how to vary rules you 've been taught.

For instance — in trumps "play a backward
game,"
Reserving all strength at first in the same,

And giving a partner one chance at least
Of winning a trick before he has ceased

To follow the lead, for you cannot *count*
On *his* holding many, when *you 've* an amount.

Moreover, you may by leading low
Embarrass left hand, who will not know

In which of the hands the high cards lie,
And so will allow a trick to go by,

Enabling third hand to win, perchance,
With a fourth-rate card, and thus entrance

A partner, who may be a bit avaricious —
For to *such* souls, such tricks are *delicious !*

It 's only *in trumps* that you can *afford*
To lead in this way, and the high cards hoard ;

But then, as I 've said to you before,
Rely on your head, and "play to the score."

And remember, please, you 're not to yearn
For conquests like these, when you discern

Three very good cards within your hand,
For in *such* cases you 'll soon command,

And your scheme is then to circumvent
A foe upon whom destruction 's sent!

So, to keep *him* from undue gain,
Lead out the suit as if 't were "plain."

Or, if you hold as many as six,
Beside the ace, you 'll make more tricks

Not to lead low, as the chances are
None of the rest can follow you far;

So, count your cards, and, finding you hold
Seven in suit, your game must be bold.

In leading trumps there 's one exception,
One that avoids any deception,—

The leader *then* rising superior
To strategy of hands inferior,

And showing partner from the first
No need to fear the enemy's worst,—

Namely: when holding ace, king and queen,
Or *all four* honors, let them be seen

By leading lowest, since 't will secure
The *trick* quite as well — this *you* are sure —

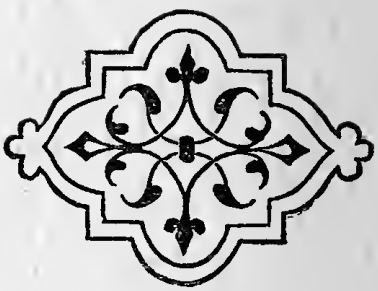
And also proclaims that you have command,
As all the best trumps must be in your hand.

And on this plan, if first lead is *knave*
Then follow with ace, confusion to save.

Or leading *queen* first, then, as you know,
Follow with king, if wishing to show

At least *five in suit;* or, holding but four,
Then follow with *ace* to prove you 've no more.

This I believe is my last injunction;
You knowing *where* to seek more instruction.



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